GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Mines and Geology – Sri Seela Venkata Ramana Rao, the then Assistant Director of Mines & Geology, Anakapalli, Visakhapatnam District (Retd.)– Allegations of acquisition of assets disproportionate to the known sources of Income-Violation of A.P.C.S.(Conduct) Rules, 1964- Departmental Proceedings under Rule (20) of A.P.C.S.(CC&A) Rules,1991 r/w Rule (9) of Revised Pension Rules,1980 – Articles of charges – Issued.

Industries & Commerce (Vigilance) Department

G.O.Rt.No. 87 **Dated:06/05/2024**

Read the following:

1. From the DG, ACB Lr.RC.No.35/RCA-WVP/2011, dt.16.08.2017.
2. From the DG, ACB Lr.RC.No.35/RCA-WVP/2011-S.11, dt.18.06.2022.
3. G.O.Ms.No.39, Ind & Com (Vig) dept., dt.06-05-2024.

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ORDER:-

In pursuance of the sanction accorded by the Government under sub-clause(i) of clause (b) of sub-rule (2) of Rule 9 of Revised Pension Rules,1980 for initiating departmental action against Sri Seela Venkata Ramana Rao, the then Assistant Director of Mines & Geology, Anakapalli, Visakhapatnam District (Retd.)vide reference 3rd cited, it is proposed to hold an enquiry against Sri Seela Venkata Ramana Rao, the then Assistant Director of Mines & Geology, Anakapalli, Visakhapatnam District (Retd.) in accordance with the procedure laid down in Rule (20) of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1991. The enquiry shall be conducted/ caused to be conducted by Principal Secretary to Govt. (Mines), AP Secretariat, Velagapudi.

2. The substance of the imputation of misconduct or misbehaviour in respect of which the inquiry is proposed to be held is set out in the enclosed statement of articles of charge (Annexure-I) and the imputation of misconduct or misbehaviour in support of each article of charge is enclosed (Annexure-II). A list of documents by which and a list of oral evidence by whom the articles of charge are proposed to be sustained are also enclosed (Annexure III & IV).

3. Sri Seela Venkata Ramana Rao, the then Assistant Director of Mines & Geology, Anakapalli, Visakhapatnam District (Retd.) is directed to submit his written statement of defence within ten days of the receipt of this order and also state whether he desires to be heard in person.

4. He is informed that an inquiry will be held only in respect of those articles of charge as are not admitted. He should, therefore, specifically admit or deny each article of charge.

(P.T.O)

5. Sri Seela Venkata Ramana Rao, the then Assistant Director of Mines & Geology, Anakapalli, Visakhapatnam District (Retd.) is further informed that if he does not submit his written statement of defence on or before the date specified in para (3) above, or otherwise fails or refuses to comply with the provisions of Rule 20 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control, and Appeal) Rules, 1991 or orders/ directions issued in pursuance of the said rules, the Inquiring Authority may hold the inquiry against him ex-parte.

6. Attention of Sri Seela Venkata Ramana Rao, the then Assistant Director of Mines & Geology, Anakapalli, Visakhapatnam District (Retd.) is invited to Rule 24 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964 under which no Government servant shall bring or attempt to bring any political or outside influence to bear upon any superior authority to further his interests in respect of matters pertaining to his service under Government. If any representation is received on his behalf from another person in respect of any matter dealt with in these proceedings, it will be presumed that he is aware of such a representation and that it has been made at his instance and action will be taken against him for violation of Rule 24 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

7. The receipt of this order may be acknowledged.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

GOPAL KRISHNA DWIVEDI
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To

Sri Seela Venkata Ramana Rao, the then Assistant Director of Mines & Geology, Anakapalli, Visakhapatnam District (Retd.) (w.e., Annexures-I to IV) through the Director of Mines And Geology, A.P., Ibrahimpatnam, Vijayawada (with a request to serve the order on the individual and send the served copy with dated signature to Government).

The Director of Mines & Geology, B Block (Vth and VIth Floors), Anjaneya Towers, Ibrahimpatnam, Vijayawada, Krishna District.

Copy To:

The Director General, ACB, AP, Vijayawada

The Secretary to Vigilance Commissioner, Andhra Pradesh Vigilance Commission, A.P.Secretariat,Velagapudi.

Sc/Sf.

//FORWARDED:: BY ORDER//

K. Roopa
SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE – I

STATEMENT OF ARTICLE OF CHARGES FRAMED AGAINST SRI SEELA VENKATA RAMANA RAO (NOW RETIRED) S/O (LATE) PERAYYA, WORKED AS ASST. DIRECTOR OF MINES & GEOLOGY, ANAKAPALLI, VISAKHAPATNAM DISTRICT

That Sri Seela Venkata Ramana Rao, (now retired) S/o. (Late) Perayya, Assistant Director of Mines & Geology, Anakapalli, Visakhapatnam District (hereinafter referred as Retired Government Servant in short "R.G.S.") while functioning in different categories from 30.12.1991 (date of entering into service) to 13.01.2011(till the date of Trap), has committed grave misconduct in as much as;

CHARGE: -1

That the Government Servant (now retired) without previous sanction from the competent authority purchased immovable properties i.e., Item Nos.1 to 5 (Regarding Item No.2 of assets, he had not obtained permission for construction of house) in the list of assets in the name of his wife, and he also failed to report forthwith to the competent authority pertaining to the transaction of movable asset vide Item no.10 in the list of assets in the name of his wife and thereby he contravened/violated Rule 9(1) of A.P.C.S. (conduct) Rules, 1964.

CHARGE: -2

That the Government Servant (now retired) failed to submit the Annual Property Returns for the years from 1991 to 2001, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2010 to the competent authority and thereby he contravened/violated Rule 9(7) of A.P.C.S. (conduct) Rules, 1964.

Thus, the Government Servant (now retired) Sri Seela Venkata Ramana Rao S/o (Late) Perayya, Assistant Director of Mines & Geology, Anakapalli, Visakhapatnam district by his above mentioned acts exhibited lack of devotion to duty, failed to maintain integrity, behaved in a manner unbecoming of a Government Servant and brought down the prestige of the Government and thereby he violated/contravened Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980 r/w 9(1) & (7) of A.P.C.S. (conduct) Rules, 1964.

GOPAL KRISHNA DWIVEDI
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

ANNEXURE –II

STATEMENT OF IMPUTATIONS OF MISCONDUCT OR MISBEHAVIOUR IN SUPPORT OF ARTICLE OF CHARGES FRAMED AGAINST SRI SEELA VENKATA RAMANA RAO (NOW RETIRED) S/O (LATE) PERAYYA, WORKED AS ASST. DIRECTOR OF MINES & GEOLOGY, ANAKAPALLI, VISAKHAPATNAM DISTRICT

That Sri Seela Venkata Ramana, S/o (Late) Perayya is a native of Jampeta area of Rajahmundry of East Godavari district. His date of birth is 02-08-1961. He entered into Government service on 30-12-1991 as Technical Assistant and worked as such at O/o Dy. Director of Mines and Geology, Kakinada, East Godavari District and he worked there up to 29.10.1992, and worked as such at the O/o Asst. Director of Mines and Geology, Visakhapatnam from 30-10-1992 to 01-06-1996. He got promotion as Royalty Inspector on 03.06.1996 and worked as such at the O/o Director of Mines and Geology, Hyderabad up to 14.08.2002. He worked in the same capacity at O/o Asst. Director of Mines and Geology, Rajahmundry from 16.08.2002 to 07.08.2003. Later, he got promotion as Asst. Geologist on 07-08-2003 and worked as such at the O/o Asst. Director of Mines and Geology, Vizianagaram up to 23.04.2006. He worked in the same capacity at the O/o Asst. Director of Mines and Geology, Visakhapatnam from 24.04.2006 to 11.12.2007. He got promotion as Asst. Director of Mines and Geology on 20.12.2007 and worked as such at Anakapalli till 13.01.2011 (i.e., date of trap). He was retired from service on 31-08-2021 on attaining the age of superannuation. He is here-in-after referred to as Government Servant (now retired).

CHARGE-1

That the Government Servant (now retired) without previous sanction from the competent authority purchased immovable properties i.e., Item Nos.1 to 5 (Regarding Item No.2 of assets, he had not obtained permission for construction of house) in the list of assets in the name of his wife, and he also failed to report forthwith to the competent authority pertaining to the transaction of movable asset vide Item no.10 in the list of assets in the name of his wife and thereby he contravened/violated Rule 9(1) of A.P.C.S. (conduct) Rules, 1964 R/w Rule 9 of AP Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

FACTS AND EVIDENCE OF THE CASE:

On 13-10-2011, the Government Servant was trapped by ACB officials in Cr. No.01/RCT-VSP/2011 when he demanded and accepted a bribe of Rs.20,000/- from Sri Yarlagadda Venkatappayya Chowdary S/o Pitchayya, r/o Bavuluvada village, Anakapalli Mandal, Visakhapatnam for doing an official favour of processing and forwarding the application of complainant's relative to the Deputy Director, Mines & Geology to seek approval/ appropriate orders and execution of quarry lease.

On the day of the aforesaid trap, searches were conducted on the residential

(Contd…)

premises of Government Servant situated at D.No.27-1-85, first floor, Srinagar, Gajuwaka, Visakhapatnam. During the searches, some incriminating materials, GO documents and cash worth Rs.1,46,000/- relating to Government Servant were found in his house. An inventory report was prepared in the presence of mediators. On further inquiry, it was revealed that the Government Servant had acquired assets in his name and in the name of his wife and relatives/friends which are disproportionate to the known sources of his income and he acquired the aforesaid assets by corrupt and dubious means while he was in Government service in different categories. Hence, a separate case in Crime No.03/RCA-ACB/VSP/2011 was registered on 08-02-2011 at 08.00 hours under section 13(2) r/w 13(1)(e) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 after obtaining authorization vide proceedings No.09/ACB-JD(A)/2011 dated.07.02.2011 from Joint Director(A), ACB, Hyderabad and investigated into.

During the investigation, search warrants were obtained from the Hon'ble Spl. Judge for A.C.B. Cases, Visakhapatnam, and simultaneous searches were conducted on 09-02-2011 & 13.02.2011 at 1) Residential premises of Government Servant (G.S.) situated at D.No.50-88-6/3(1), Santhipuram, Visakhapatnam, 2) Residential premises of Sri Battina Hemendra Kumar S/o Late Appala Naidu (Brother-in-law of Government Servant.), R/o D.No.27-7-163, Official Colony, Srinagar, Gajuwaka, (3) Residential premises of Kum. Battina Padma Kumari D/o late Appala Naidu. (Sister-in-law of Government Servant), R/o Door No. 27-1-84, Srinagar Colony, Gajuwaka, Visakhapatnam, (4) Residential premises of Smt. Battina Sai Savithri W/o M.Jawahar Lal, (Sister-in-law of Government Servant), R/o Karasa, Marripalem, Visakhapatnam, (5) Residential premises of Sri Seela Mallikharjuna Rao S/o Perayya (Brother of Government Servant), R/o Anala Appa Rao Road, Rajahmundry, (6) Residential premises of Smt. Asapu Mohini W/o Malleswara Rao, R/o D.No.58-30-88/1, Sakethpuram, Visakhapatnam and (7) Residential premises of Sri Nemani Subrahmanyam S/o Sitaramaiah, R/o D.No.58-27-8, Reddyveedhi, Ramalayam, Buchirajupalem, Visakhapatnam, and searches were conducted by invoking the provisions u/s 165 Cr.P.C. at (8) the office room of Government Servant's wife Smt. S.S. Kantham, situated at Command Electrical Section, Eastern Naval Command HQRs, Visakhapatnam and at the Bank Locker vide No.28, Punjab National Bank, NAD Kotha Road, Visakhapatnam which is in the name of Smt. Asapu Mohini.

During the searches, several incriminating material like documents (which were made up into files), gold, cash, household articles and etc., were found and seized pertaining to income, assets, and expenditure of the Government Servant and his family members for further investigation.

The check period was taken from 30-12-1991 (Date of his joining into Government Service) to 13-01-2011 (Date of trap).

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The investigation reveals that the Government Servant acquired following immovable and movable properties in the name of his wife during the check period.

Details of properties acquired:

S. No	Assets No.	Description of the property	Value of the property (In Rs.)
1.	**1.**	Government Servant purchased a RCC building with built-up plinth area of 780 sft. in 220 Sq.yards site bearing door No.27-1-163 at Chinagantyada, Gajuwaka, Visakhapatnam in the name of Smt. S.Surya Kantham W/o Government Servant vide Doc.No.4049/2004 of Sub-Registrar Office, Gajuwaka dt.16-09-2004.	5,29,000
2.	**2.**	Government Servant constructed a two storied building with plinth area of about 2400 Sft., (ground floor in 1997 and 1st floor in 2002) vide door No.27-1-85, in a house plot, measuring 158 sq.yds at Chinagantyada, Gajuwaka, Visakhapatnam purchased by Smt. S.Surya Kantham W/o Government Servant vide Doc.No.6344/1989 of Sub-Registrar Office,	9,54,000
3.	**3.**	Government Servant purchased a house flat measuring 1000 sft with undivided share of 33 Sq.yds at Abid Nagar, Akkayyapalem, Visakhapatnam in ground floor vide Door No.45-49-10/3 in the name of Smt. S.Surya Kantham W/o Government Servant vide Doc.No.1498/2005 of Sub-Registrar Office,	5,38,000
4.	**4.**	Government Servant purchased agricultural dry land measuring Ac.3.09 cents in Sy.No.142/6, in Mukundapuram Agraharam, Vepada Mandal, S.Kota, Vizianagaram District in the name of Smt. S.Surya Kantham W/o Government Servant vide Doc.No.332/2005 of Sub-Registrar Office, S.Kota,	93,000
5.	**5.**	Government Servant purchased a house site measuring 290.40 Sq.yds in Sy. No.132/19, in Kanapaka village, Ayyannapeta, Vizianagaram in the name of Smt. S.Surya Kantham W/o Government Servant vide Doc.No.4568/2005 of Jt. Sub-Registrar Office,	73,000
6.	**10.**	Government Servant purchased 2nd hand Maruthi 800 Car bearing No.AP-31P-9179 in the name of Smt. S.Surya Kantham W/o Government Servant in the year	60,000

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During the investigation, the Director, Mines and Geology, B.R.K.R Building, A.P, Hyderabad furnished information vide Lr.No.2323/E1/2011 dated. 21-04-2011 that the Government Servant did not obtain permission for acquiring immovable GO properties as mentioned above in the name of his wife while he was in Government Service.

Hence, the charge against the Government Servant (now retired) that he without previous sanction from the competent authority acquired (construction of item No.2 of asset) above mentioned immovable properties in the name of his wife, and he also failed to report forthwith to the competent authority about the transaction of movable asset as mentioned above in the name of his wife during the check period, is held substantiated.

CHARGE-2

That the Government Servant (now retired) failed to submit the Annual Property Returns for the years from 1991 to 2001, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2010 to the competent authority and thereby he contravened/violated Rule 9(7) of A.P.C.S. (conduct) Rules, 1964 r/w Rule 9 of AP Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

FACTS AND EVIDENCE:

During the investigation the Director, Mines and Geology, B.R.K.R Building, A.P, Hyderabad furnished Letter vide Lr.No.2323/E1/2011 dated.21-04-2011 informing that the Government Servant Sri Seela Venkata Ramana Rao, S/o (Late) Perayya is a native of Jampeta area of Rajahmundry of East Godavari district has not submitted Annual Property Returns to the competent authority from 1991 to 2001, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2010.

Hence, the Charge against the Government Servant (now retired) that he failed to submit Annual Property Returns to the competent authority for the years from 1991 to 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2010, is held substantiated.

Thus, the Government Servant (now retired) Sri Seela Venkata Ramana Rao, S/o. Late Perayya, Assistant Director, Mines and Geology, Anakapalli, Visakhapatnam district by his above mentioned acts exhibited lack of devotion to duty, failed to maintain integrity, behaved in a manner unbecoming of a Government Servant and brought down the prestige of the Government and thereby he violated/contravened Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980 r/w 9(1) & (7) of A.P.C.S. (conduct) Rules, 1964.

Thus, the Government Servant (now retired), Sri Seela Venkata Ramana Rao, S/o. Late Perayya, worked as Assistant Director, Mines and Geology, Anakapalli, Visakhapatnam district rendered himself for a regular departmental inquiry.

GOPAL KRISHNA DWIVEDI
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

ANNEXURE-III

Oral Evidence:

Charge-I:

1.	Joint Sub Registrar-6, Gajuwaka, Visakhapatnam. (Item No.1 of assets)
2.	Deputy Executive Engineer, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Hyderabad. (Item No.2 of assets)
3.	Zonal Commissioner, Zone-V, Gajuwaka, GVMC, Visakhapatnam. (Item No.2 of assets)
4.	Sub-Registrar, Dwarakanagar of Visakhapatnam (Item No.3 of assets)
5.	Chief Administrator Officer, Command Civilian Personal Officer for Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief. (Item No.3 of assets)
6.	Sub-Registrar, S.Kota, Vizianagaram District (Item No.4 of assets)
7.	Joint Sub-Registrar-1, Vizianagaram. (Item No.5 of assets)
8.	Deputy Transport Commissioner, Visakhapatnam along with copy of B-Register and Inspection Report of vehicle bearing No. AP-31P-9179. (Item No.10 of assets).
9.	Authorized Signatory, S.R.M.T. Limited, Siripuram, Visakhapatnam along with copy of invoice (Item No. 10 of assets).
10.	Sri Mukkala Rajendra Kumar S/o Sri MukkalaJayanna. Age 39 yrs, Assistant Executive Engineer, O/o Executive Engineer, SMI Division, Maharanipeta, Visakhapatnam. (Mediator-1 on 13.01.2011 in Trap Case and house inventory)
11.	Sri Thaduturi Venkata Ramana S/o Late, Satyanarayana, Age. 55 yrs, Junior Technical Officer S/o Executive Engineer, SMI Division, Maharanipeta, Visakhapatnam. (Mediator-2 on 13.01.2011 in Trap Case and house inventory)
12.	The Section Head O/o Director of Mines and Geology, Hyderabad
13.	Sri S.Rama Krishna, Inspector of Police, A.C.B., Visakhapatnam Range. (Item Nos.1 to 5 & 10 of assets)
14.	Sri K.V.R.K. Prasad, Dy. Supdt. of Police, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Visakhapatnam. (Trap laying officer in Cr.No.01/RCT-ACB-VSP/2011 and Supervising Officer in Cr.No.03/RCA-ACB-VSP/2011).
15.	Sri S. Ramesh, Inspector of Police, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Visakhapatnam.
16.	Sri P.Ramakrishna, Inspector of Police, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Visakhapatnam.
17.	Any other witness to be mentioned at the time of enquiry.

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Charge-2:

1. The Section Head O/o Director of Mines and Geology, Hyderabad (APRs).
2. Sri S. Ramakrishna, Inspector of Police, A.C.B.Visakhapatnam, District.
3. Sri P. Ramakrishna, Inspector of Police, ACB, Visakhapatnam, District.
4. Any other witness to be mentioned at the time of enquiry.

GOPAL KRISHNA DWIVEDI
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

ANNEXURE-IV

DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE:

CHARGE–1:

1.	Inventory Proceedings, dated.13.01.2011 drafted at D.No.27-1-85, Srinagar Colony, Gajuwaka, Visakhapatnam in Cr.No.01/RCT-ACB-VSP/2011. (Item No.1 to 5 & 10 of Assets)
2.	Letter Rc.No.Nil, dated.14-02-2011 of the Jt. Sub Registrar-6, Gajuwaka along with certified copy of document No.4049/2004, dt.16-09-2004. (Item No.1 of Assets)
3.	Evaluation Report in Cr. No.03/RCA-WVP/DEE/2011, dated.29-06-2011 of Dy. Executive Engineer, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Hyderabad. (Item No.2 of Assets)
4.	Letter Rc No.2951/2011/ACP-V/G1, dtd.09-03-2011 of the Zonal Commissioner, Zone-V, Gajuwaka, GVMC, Visakhapatnam along with certified copy proceedings of the Commissioner, Gajuwaka Municipality vide B.A. No.42/2001/G.1, dated.10-04-2001 and copy of plan. (Item No. 2 of Assets)
5.	Letter C.No.Nil/SR/DWK/2011 dated.22-02-2011 of the Sub-Registrar, Dwarakanagar of Visakhapatnam along with certified copy of Doc.No.1498/2005. (Item No.3 of Assets)
6.	Letter No.CE/2008/Property/Gen dt 01-08-2014 of the Chief Administrative Officer, Command Civilian Personnel Officer for Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief. (Item Nos.3 of Assets)
7.	Letter No.9/2011/SKT, dated.21-02-2011 of the Sub-Registrar, S.Kota, Vizianagaram District along with certified copy of Doc.No.332/2005, Dt.18-02-2005. (Item No. 4 of Assets)
8.	Letter No.Nil/RO (OB), VZM, dated.18-02-2011 of the Jt. Sub-Registrar-1, Vizianagaram along with certified copy of Doc.No.4568/2005, dated.27-05-2005. (Item No.5 of assets)
9.	Inventory report dated.13-01-2011 drafted at the residential premises of A.O. situated at Door No.27-1-85, Srinagar Colony, Gajuwaka, Visakhapatnam. (Item No.10 of assets).
10.	Letter No.02988/Visakhapatnam/2011, dated.21-02-2011 of the Regional Transport Officer (FAC), O/o Deputy Transport Commissioner, Visakhapatnam along with copy of B-Register and Inspection Report of vehicle bearing No. AP-31P-9179. (Item No. 10 of assets).
11.	Letter dated. 21-05-2010 of the Authorized Signatory, S.R.M.T. Limited, Siripuram, Visakhapatnam along with copy of invoice. (Item No.10 of assets).
12.	Letter Rc.No.2323/E1/2011, dated.21-04-2011 of the Director, Mines and Geology, B.R.K.R Building, A.P, Hyderabad
13.	Any document required to be filed at the time of enquiry.

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CHARGE-2:

1. Letter Rc.No.2323/E1/2011, dated.21-04-2011 of the Director, Mines and Geology, B.R.K.R Building, A.P, Hyderabad.

2. Any document required to be filed at the time of enquiry.

GOPAL KRISHNA DWIVEDI
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT